

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of November 13, 2008, claims 1, 12, and 30 have been amended in a manner which is believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Support for this amendment is found in the original application as filed including paragraph [0011] of the published application.

Applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiner Said for his helpful comments made during a telephone interview held on January 7, 2009 at which a proposed amendment to claim 1 was discussed with the undersigned attorney. Examiner Said indicated that the proposal corresponding to that presented herewith would be helpful and would be considered with respect to distinguishing over the cited art. No agreements were reached.

As amended, claims 1-7, 10-15, 18-25, and 28-30 are pending and claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 26, and 27 are canceled.

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary indicates at item 7 that claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 26, and 27 are objected to, but in fact these claims are canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

At section 3, claims 1-7, 10-15, 18-25, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over US patent 6,259,045, Imai, further in view of US patent 7,345,592, Rogers.

With respect to claim 1, the Office asserts that Imai teaches a cover for an electronic device comprising a decoration which is visible to a user when the cover is connected to an electronic device; a contact sensitive component arranged such that it generates an electrical signal when a part associated to said contact sensitive component is touched; and a connection component to electrically connect the contact sensitive component to a processing component. The Office also asserts that Imai teaches a cover for an electronic device including light emitting, but that Imai does not expressly teach decoration is adjustable by a processing component. The Office further

states that Rogers teaches an electronic cover, including a decoration adjustable by a processing component.

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim that the cover comprises a connection component which is configured to electrically connect the contact sensitive component to a processor. Amended claim 1 further sets forth that the cover is configured to provide said processor in the cover, as well as the processor being configured so as to be provided with the electrical signal generated by the contact sensitive component to realize a specific function. As pointed out above, support for this amendment is found in the original application as filed, including paragraph [0011] of the published application. It is there stated that the present invention proceeds from an idea that a cover can provide not only an interactive decoration, but also connecting means to a processing means provided in the cover, as well as signals generated by the contact sensitive means being provided to the processing means suited to realize a specific function. An example is given where a user may call a function simply by touching or pressing the cover. Examples of specific functions are also provided in paragraphs [0021-0023] of the published application.

As set forth in its Abstract and at column 2, line 33 through column 3, line 20, and as shown in Figure 2, Imai is directed to a keybutton-equipped device which has a board 40 with electrodes 41 at a predetermined position[s] on which a predetermined number of sensitive element[s] at a predetermined position[s] is [are] provided; a case 20 in which the board is mounted and a predetermined number of holes formed at a position[s] corresponding to the sensitive element[s] on the board, as well as a keypad 10 (Figures 1A and 1B) which is of a stretchy material (such as rubber and plastic) and is formed with a tubular body to cover and tighten the case. The overall arrangement of the device is shown in Figure 3 of Imai.

It is therefore clear that Imai only discloses the use of a board 40 having electrodes 41 (Imai, Figures 2-7 and column 2, lines 43-46). Imai does not disclose a processor wherein a cover is configured to provide the processor in the cover, as well

as the processor being configured to be provided with electrical signals generated by the contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function. At best, the board 40 of Imai corresponds to the connection component of the cover as set forth in amended claim 1.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the feature of the present invention setting forth that the cover is configured to provide the processor in the cover, as well as the processor configured to be provided with electrical signals generated by the contact sensitive component so as to at least realize a specific function are not disclosed or suggested by Imai. At best, the teaching of Imai would show to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the electrodes 41 and board 40 might be connected to a processor associated with an electronic device, but completely fails to suggest that the cover is configured so as to provide the processor in the cover and wherein the processor is configured to receive the electrical signals generated by the contact sensitive component to at least realize a specific function.

Furthermore, Rogers is cited by the Office as teaching an electronic cover, including a decoration (LED) which is adjustable by a processing component. Rogers is directed to a hand-held remote control unit which has an LED that can be enabled depending upon the use of the remote control device (such as if it is to be used for operating a video gaming system). In particular, Rogers shows a remote control unit which represents the entire electronic device and not just a cover. There is no indication that the operating circuitry shown in Rogers could form a part of a cover. In Rogers, only housing 11 would be understood to form the cover and at most base panel 12, keypad 13, and faceplate 14 could be seen as additional elements of the cover. None of the other elements is shown or mentioned in Rogers to belong to an entity that could be considered a cover. Furthermore, the passage at column 6, lines 29-55 as relied upon by the Office does not provide any suggestion that microprocessor 41 of Figure 4 or Figure 6 could be a part of a cover. For all of the foregoing reasons, it is therefore respectfully submitted that Rogers does not make up for the deficiencies in

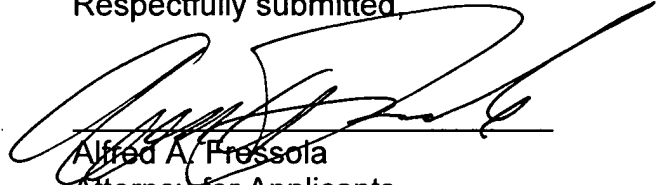
Imai and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers.

Independent electronic device claim 12 and independent cover claim 30 have been amended in a manner corresponding to claim 1 and for similar reasons are also believed to be distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers.

Furthermore, dependent claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13-15, 18-25, 28, and 29 are also believed to be distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers at least in view of their ultimate dependency from an independent claim which is allowable.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 13, 2009

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